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REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DRAFTING GROUP TO THE PLENARY

Addendum

91/__. National execution

The Governing Council,

Recalling its decision 90/21 of 22 June 1990 on national execution,

Also recalling General Assembly resolution 44/211 of 22 December 1989 entitled "Comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system" and in particular paragraphs 18, 19 and 24 thereof, relating to government/national execution of programmes and projects funded by the United Nations system for development,

Further recalling its decision 90/26 of 22 June 1990 on agency support costs,

Reaffirming the need to promote the utilization of national capacities through national execution, to ensure that programmes and projects are managed in an integrated manner, and to promote their long-term sustainability and wider impact on the development process,

Recognizing that the promotion of national execution is a process based on the needs and national capacities of each country,

Recognizing that national execution entails, inter alia, overall responsibility for the formulation and management of United Nations Development Programme-assisted programmes and projects by the recipient countries, as well as accountability to the Administrator for the effective use of United Nations Development Programme resources,

Also recognizing that multilateral technical cooperation is meant to focus on capacity-building in the recipient countries,

Further recognizing the need, as appropriate, for adequate technical support of nationally executed programmes and projects and to ensure the quality of the technical cooperation activities financed by the United Nations Development Programme,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator (DP/1991/23) and of the proposals contained therein;

2. Emphasizes that the promotion of national execution should be country specific and recognizes the responsibility of the recipient Governments, in agreement with the Administrator, to determine the modality and manner of execution and implementation, and that when necessary and at the request of the Government, the United Nations Development Programme and the recipient Government may undertake a joint assessment of national capacity to discharge responsibility for the formulation and management of programmes and projects and maintain accountability for their results;

3. Agrees that national execution would be promoted by the provision, inter alia, of the following, at the request of the recipient countries:

(a) Broad support and assistance to Governments in the identification, building and strengthening of sustainable national capacities, including institutional capacities for the formulation and management of development programmes and projects;

(b) Appropriate advice and assistance in the execution and implementation of United Nations Development Programme activities, working, as far as possible, through national structures;

(c) Mobilization, coordination and effective use of the analytical, technical and managerial capabilities of the United Nations system for the purposes outlined in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above;

(d) Facilitating the exercise of choice by Governments with regard to the variety and combination of implementation modalities under national execution;

4. Encourages:

(a) Simplification, harmonization and adaptation of rules and procedures governing all aspects of programmes and projects, bearing in mind the Administrator's accountability for programme quality, relevance and impact, as well as his responsibility for ensuring adequate financial management and reporting;

(b) The shift of the specialized agencies of the United Nations system away from project operations and administrative support towards the provision of analytical and technical advice and support;

(c) The provision at the country level of relevant information that would enable assumption of the responsibility for national execution by recipient countries;

(d) Appropriate measures, including decentralization, at the field level, wherever needed, in order to facilitate capacity-building for national execution while taking into account the need to keep administrative costs to acceptable levels;

(e) Measures to assist recipient countries to strengthen, where needed, their national units responsible for technical cooperation, particularly those involved in national execution;

5. Agrees that programme-level assistance to national capacity-building would help to ensure that programmes and projects are nationally managed in an integrated manner and, therefore, that the United Nations Development Programme, in collaboration with the relevant agencies of the United Nations system, should, at the request of the recipient countries:

(a) Assist relevant national organizations in the assessment of technical and managerial capacities at the programme level, and in the formulation of sectoral, cross-sectoral and subsectoral development programmes;

(b) Assist in the transfer of skills necessary for the development of self-sustained institutions with a capacity to deal with multisectoral linkages;

6. Requests the Administrator to develop, in consultation with agencies and Governments, guidelines covering:

(a) Assistance to Governments in the formulation and implementation of national capacity-building strategies relating to all stages of the programme/project cycle;

(b) The respective roles of the United Nations Development Programme, including field offices and the Office for Project Services, agencies and recipient Governments in all aspects of national execution and implementation;

(c) Utilization for national execution of the relevant technical support resources agreed upon in decision 91/... of the Governing Council on support costs successor arrangements;

7. Also requests the Administrator to:

(a) Report to the Governing Council at its thirty-ninth session (1992) on the above-mentioned guidelines and on the implementation of procedures for the accounting, reporting and auditing of nationally executed programmes and projects;

(b) Review the issue of delegation of authority to the Resident Representative for the approval of nationally executed projects and programmes, in light of the ongoing process of decentralization to the field level, and present specific proposals to the Governing Council at its thirty-ninth session (1992).